

The Things Students Carry

by Renee Butler

Billy carries his favorite hat of his favorite team, The Patriots; for he cannot wear it during school hours. Billy carries a 700 page Biology book, a 1200 page English book, and a 400 page Algebra II book in his red L.L Bean bag with his name embrirodred on the small front pocket. In his left front jean pant pocket he carries the blue Swiss army knife that his father gave to him before he died earlier that year. In Billy's mind he carries hate about most people and even some teachers. There is also the weight of peer pressure that weighs down on Billy's mind just like a heavy weight to be and act just like the "cool" kids. Billy often tends to be bored during school hours and likes to fall asleep especially during third block in his algebra 2 class. Billy also carries the stress about the Biology test on Friday.

Maria carries her favorite faded pink purse that holds her brand new cell phone and her make up. Each morning Maria will drive to Dunkin Doughnuts just to get her favorite kind of coffee, hazelnut, and drink it during her first class. In her heart she carries the heartbreak for the loss of her boyfriend Billy. In her mind she fears graduating and being the first in her family to go to college. She carries her hopes that one day she will study to be a doctor. She carries the goals to make sure she does her best to get through high school and accomplish her hopes and dreams. She carries the secrets of what girls have told her at school and she carries the secrets of what goes on in the girls' bathroom. She carries her sensitive emotions about how she looks. She carries the loss of the entire family and the crippling injuries she suffered during the accident that cost everyone except her, their lives. Most of all she carries the feeling of difference and how she will never be the girl who was once pretty and popular with a loving family who would be waiting for her when she got home from school.